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# Public Health Reports

Treasury Department, United States Marine-Hospital Service. Published in accordance with act of Congress approved February 15, 1893.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY 11, 1900.

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## NOTICE.

Any person on the mailing list of the PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS who, at any time, fails to receive promptly this publication will confer a favor by notifying the Surgeon-General of the United States Marine-Hospital Service.

## UNITED STATES.

*Shipping of bone dust from Bombay prohibited.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 28, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor, by direction of the Secretary of State, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant stating that the Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service is informed that bone dust is being shipped from Bombay, a plague-infected port, to the United States via Liverpool, Glasgow, and, perhaps, by way of other ports in Great Britain and on the continent of Europe, and requesting that consular officers of the United States in Europe be instructed that such cargo should not be shipped at the present time.

In reply, I inclose for your information copy of a circular to consular officers in Europe containing the instructions suggested by you, and directing them to inform shippers and govern themselves accordingly.

Respectfully,

THOS. W. CRIDLER,

*Third Assistant Secretary.*

HON. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 1, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor, by direction of the Secretary of State, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d ultimo, stating that as bone dust is capable of carrying infection the consular officers in British India should be notified that it should not be shipped to the United States at the present time.

In reply I have to say that the circular of April 21, 1900, a copy of

May 11, 1900

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which is inclosed, has been sent to the consuls at Calcutta and Bombay with instructions to decline to certify invoices of this commodity and to issue similar instructions to the consular agents under their supervision.

Respectfully,

THOS. W. CRIDLER,  
*Third Assistant Secretary.*

HON. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

[Inclosure.]

*Quarantine regulations in regard to bone dust.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, D. C., April 21, 1900.

*To the consular officers of the United States in Europe:*

This Department is informed by the Secretary of the Treasury, under date of the 11th instant, that bone dust or bone meal is being shipped from Bombay, a port infected with bubonic plague, to the United States via Liverpool, Glasgow, and, perhaps, other ports in Great Britain and on the continent of Europe. It has been found that the material is capable of carrying infection, and should not therefore be shipped at the present time.

You will so inform shippers and be governed accordingly.

THOS. W. CRIDLER,  
*Third Assistant Secretary.*

[Reports to the Surgeon-General United States Marine Hospital Service.]

*Pneumonia in Butte, Montana.*

BUTTE, MONT., May 2, 1900.

SIR: Owing to the exaggerated accounts of the prevalence of pneumonia, as published by eastern papers, I feel it incumbent upon myself, as health officer, to advise you of the real situation, and would state that Butte has an altitude of nearly 8,000 feet, and pneumonia constitutes, at all times in season, one of our most prevalent, as well as most fatal, diseases; at the same time it can not be denied that the disease this spring has been unusually prevalent as well as fatal, and I believe the mortality will approach 50 per cent of the cases, as recent telegrams sent you stated, but the disease presents every phase of typical pneumonia, except a greater death rate and a more violent course in each individual. I will state symptoms, etc., of all cases which have come under my immediate observation: Initiated by chill, headache, pain in chest, followed by fever and its usual phenomena, spitting of blood and frothy mucous, depression, fullness and flatness on percussion of lungs. Cases usually succumb about the sixth or seventh day, usually from asphyxia, but frequently from syncope. Several physicians have made necropsies and have found red and gray hepatization of area involved; those recovering pass crisis about ninth day, and resolution progresses with usual crepitus redux and expectoration.

The profession (intelligent) is a unit in pronouncing the disease pneumonia.

Serum received to-day and will be used as you advise, or kept awaiting more indications for its exhibition.

Respectfully,

J. NEWTON ALEXANDER,  
*Health Officer.*

P. S.—Some abatement in last few days.